



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/532,748

04/26/2005

Javier del Prado Pavon

US020396

5750

24737

7590

08/05/2008

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

CEHIC, KENAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2616

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Detailed Action

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 6-9,10, 14-17, 22-25,26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For claim 6, 14, 22 the claim limitation/variable “TXOP” is not defined. It is not known what “TXOP” is.

For claim 9,17,25, claim limitation “where (L)...” seems to refer back to the variable “Li” in the first and second equations. If this is true the limitation should be changed to “where (Li)...”.

For claim 9, 10, 17, and 26, the limitation “TXOPi” is not defined. It is not known what the variable stand for/represents.

Dependent claims are rejected since they depend on rejected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claim 1-3, 6, 11, 14, 20, 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman (US 2003/0161340) in view of Lin et al. (US 2008/0049761)

For claim 1, Sherman discloses a method for scheduling (see section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) the transmission of a data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 lines 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) in a wireless communications

network (see Figure 1, 104, 150,101-13), the method (see section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) comprising:

receiving a request (see section 0040 lines 1-10 “STAs may request transmission opportunities from the HC” and Figure 2C ;217-229) to send at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs”) for transmission (see section 0040 lines 1-10 “STAs may request transmission opportunities from the HC”) granting (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) , said request (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs”) to send said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic....STA may transmit” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs”); transmitting, a medium access control (see section 0082 lines 1-5 “MAC frame”) frame (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “frame....RR”) comprised of a set of parameters (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values”) defining the characteristics (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values in the quality of service....traffic category....transmission duration....transmission category...size”) of said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame

“and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames”); and, calculating (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission” and see Figure 1, 105, 117 and section 0038 lines 5-20 “contention period is a time period...frame exchange to occur....HCF...hybrid coordinator”), service and transmission times (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-20 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission...Access algorithm”) according to a schedule algorithm (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”).

For claim 2, wherein said schedule algorithm (see section 0038 lines 5-25 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”) is operative to schedule

(see section 0038 lines 5-25 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs....frame exchanges” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”) the transmission of said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) at said calculated service and transmission times (see section 0038 lines 5-25 “contention-free period...is a time period.....right to transmit is assigned to STAs....allowing frame exchanges to occur” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”).

For claim 3, Sherman discloses step of generating (section 0029 lines 16-25 “uses a poll....access point....polls STAs” and section 0031 “lines 1-20 “polled...poll”) ,at said QAP(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117) , polling (section 0029 lines 16-25 “uses a poll....access point....polls STAs” and section 0031 “lines 1-20 “polled...poll”) frames (see section 0031 lines 1-20 “frame” and section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029

lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) or downlink frames (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 lines 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) at said calculated service and transmission times (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”) allocated (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) to said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) (see Figure 1, 101,102,103) for transmission of said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 lines 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”).

For claim 11, Sherman discloses a method for scheduling (see section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) the transmission of a data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames”) in a wireless communications network see Figure 1, 104, 150,101-13) having at least one access point (QAP)(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117) and at least one station (WSTA) (110, 112, 114) (see Figure 1, 101,102,103), the method (see section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) comprising the steps of determining (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission” and section 0028-0029 “MAC layer provides access control functions for shared medium physical layer...MAC frame exchange...frame sent from source to the destination”), at said QAP(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117 and section 0038 lines 5-20 “contention period is a time period...frame exchange to occur....HCF...hybrid coordinator”), whether at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of

a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) is originated from said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission” and section 0028-0029 “MAC layer provides access control functions for shared medium physical layer...MAC frame exchange...frame sent from source to the destination”) based on a MAC (see section 0082 lines 1-5 “MAC frame”) frame comprised of a set (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values”) of parameters defining the characteristics (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values in the quality of service....traffic category....transmission duration....transmission category....size”) of said at least one downstream (see section 0029 lines 1-10 “frame sent from the source to the destination” and section 0031 lines 1-10 “traffic is delivered to the STAs”) traffic stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames”); computing (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the

wireless medium when granted permission") service and transmission times see section 0038 lines 5-15 "right to transmit is assigned to STAs" and section 0035 lines 1-14 "HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals" and section 0029 lines 17-28 "contention free period" and section 0005 lines 5-20 "contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission...Access algorithm"), at said QAP(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117 and section 0038 lines 5-20 "contention period is a time period...frame exchange to occur....HCF....hybrid coordinator"), for servicing said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) in accordance with a schedule algorithm (see section 0038 lines 5-15 "right to transmit is assigned to STAs" and section 0035 lines 1-14 "HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals" and section 0029 lines 17-28 "contention free period" and section 0005 lines 5-15 "contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission")

and, transmitting (see section 0031 lines 1-10 "transmit one frame"), by said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) (see Figure 1, 101,102,103), said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 "traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic" and section 0029 15-20 "delivering traffic to the STAs" and section 0030 lines 1-10 "transmission of a frame" and section 0029 lines 1-10 "two frames...multicast frames" and section 0031 lines 15-25 "data frames" and section 0038 lines 5-25 "frame exchange") at said computed service and transmission times (see section 0038 lines 5-15 "right to transmit is assigned to STAs" and section 0035 lines 1-14 "HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals" and section

0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”).

For claim 20, Sherman discloses a system (see Figure 1, 100) for scheduling (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission” and section 0028-0029 “MAC layer provides access control functions for shared medium physical layer...MAC frame exchange...frame sent from source to the destination”) the transmission of a data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) in a wireless communications network (see Figure 1, 104, 150, 101-13,) having at least one access point (QAP)(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117) and at least one station (WSTA) (110, 112, 114) (see Figure 1, 101, 102, 103), the system (see Figure 1, 100) comprising:

means (see Figure 1, 101-117) for determining (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section

0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission" and section 0028-0029 “MAC layer provides access control functions for shared medium physical layer...MAC frame exchange...frame sent from source to the destination”), at said QAP(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117 and section 0038 lines 5-20 “contention period is a time period...frame exchange to occur....HCF....hybrid coordinator”), whether at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 "data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) is originated (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission" and section 0028-0029 “MAC layer provides access control functions for shared medium physical layer...MAC frame exchange...frame sent from source to the destination”) from said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) (see Figure 1, 101,102,103) based on a MAC frame (see section 0082 lines 1-5 “MAC frame”) comprised of a set of parameters (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values”) defining the characteristics see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values in the quality of service....traffic category....transmission duration....transmission category...size”) of said at least one data stream (see section 0029 lines 1-10 “frame sent from the source to

the destination” and section 0031 lines 1-10 “traffic is delivered to the STAs”); means (see Figure 1, 101-117) for computing (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”) service and transmission times (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-20 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission...Access algorithm”), at said QAP(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117 and section 0038 lines 5-20 “contention period is a time period...frame exchange to occur....HCF...hybrid coordinator”), for servicing said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) in accordance with a schedule algorithm (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-20 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission...Access algorithm”); and, means (see Figure 1, 101-117) for transmitting (see section 0031 lines 1-10 “transmit one frame”), by said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) (see Figure 1, 101,102,103), said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030

lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames” and section 0038 lines 5-25 “frame exchange”) at said computed service and transmission times (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”).

For claim 6, 14, 22, determining a Service Interval (SI) and determining a TXOP duration for said SI.

Sherman is silent about:

For claim 1, calculating service and transmission times according to a schedule algorithm utilizing said parameters.

For claim 11, computing service and transmission times, at said QAP, for servicing said at least one WSTA in accordance with a schedule algorithm utilizing said parameters

For claim 21, means for calculating service and transmission times, at said QAP, for servicing said at least one WSTA in accordance with a schedule algorithm utilizing said parameters

For claim 6, 14, 22, determining a Service Interval (SI) and determining a TXOP duration for said SI.

Lin from the same field of endeavor discloses a communication system with the following features:

For claim 1, calculating service and transmission times according to a schedule algorithm utilizing said parameters (see section 0101 “successfully sent a RR frame....will be identified in the next CC frame...positive indication...TO given...for which an RR was sent” and section 0062 “scheduling...transmission opportunity (TO)...” and section 0067 “response to TO...” and section 0083 “centralized scheduling...schedule transmission opportunities...TO is defined by a nominal start time and a maximum duration time...” and section 0112 “RR frame...”)

For claim 11, computing service and transmission times, at said QAP, for servicing said at least one WSTA in accordance with a schedule algorithm utilizing said parameters (see section 0101 “successfully sent a RR frame....will be identified in the next CC frame...positive indication...TO given...for which an RR was sent” and section 0062 “scheduling...transmission opportunity (TO)...” and section 0067 “response to TO...” and section 0083 “centralized scheduling...schedule transmission opportunities...TO is defined by a nominal start time and a maximum duration time...” and section 0112 “RR frame...”)

For claim 21, means for calculating service and transmission times, at said QAP(see section 0101 “non-PC/AP station...PC/AP station”), for servicing said at least one WSTA (see section 0101 “non-PC/AP station...PC/AP station”) in accordance with a schedule algorithm utilizing said parameters (see section 0101 “successfully sent a RR frame....will be identified in the next CC frame...positive indication...TO given...for

which an RR was sent” and section 0062 “scheduling...transmission opportunity (TO)...” and section 0067 “response to TO...” and section 0083 “centralized scheduling...schedule transmission opportunities...TO is defined by a nominal start time and a maximum duration time...” and section 0112 “RR frame...”)

For claim 6, 14, 22, determining a Service Interval (SI) (see section 0103 “sequence of TOs” and section 0106 “sequence of TOs”) and determining a TXOP duration (see section 0101 “successfully sent a RR frame....will be identified in the next CC frame...positive indication...TO given...for which an RR was sent” and section 0062 “scheduling...transmission opportunity (TO)...” and section 0067 “response to TO...” and section 0083 “centralized scheduling...schedule transmission opportunities...TO is defined by a nominal start time and a maximum duration time...” and section 0112 “RR frame...” and section 0103 “length of each TO”)

for said SI (see section 0103 “sequence of TOs” and section 0106 “sequence of TOs”).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Sherman by using the features, as taught by Lin, in order to provide “technique for transforming a WLAN into part of an end-to-end QoS network having enhanced channel access, thereby providing QoS support with improved bandwidth utilization” (see Lin sections 0020-30). Furthermore, the element were known in the prior art, and a person of ordinary skill in the art could have combined the above features (both inventions deal with WLAN and RR frame use) and the results would have been predictable.

3. Claim 4,5, 12,13,21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman (US 2003/0161340) Lin et al. (US 2008/0049761), further in view of Ho (US 2003/0081547).

For claim 4,5, 12,13,21, Sherman and Lin n discloses all the claimed invention as in paragraph 2.

For claims 5,13,21, Sherman discloses parameters (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values”) of said MAC (see section 0082 lines 1-5 “MAC frame”) frame (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “frame....RR”) Sherman is silent about:

For claim 4 and 12, said at least one data stream is parameterized traffic stream.

For claim 5,13,21, Mean Data Rate 6o0, Nominal MSDU Size (Li), and Maximum Service Interval or Delay Bound (Di).

Ho from the same or similar field of endeavor discloses a communication system with the following features:

For claim 4 and 12, said at least one data stream (see section 0010 lines 1-10 “traffic stream”) is parameterized traffic stream (see section 0010 lines 1-10 “traffic stream with parameterized Qos”).

For claim 5,13,21, Mean Data Rate 6o0 (see section 0089 lines 1-24 “mean data rate”), Nominal MSDU Size (Li) (see section 0089 lines 1-24 “nominal MSDU size”), and Delay Bound (Di) (see section 0089 lines 1-24 “delay bound”).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Sherman and Lin by using the features, as taught by

Ho, in order to provide a method for initiating a QoS action on a traffic stream (see sections 0009-0011).

4. Claim 8,16, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman (US 2003/0161340), Lin et al. (US 2008/0049761), as applied to claim 6, 14, and 22 above, further in view of Kowalski (US 2003/0063563) and Sugar et al. (US 2007/0263657)

For claims 8,16, 24, Sherman and Lin discloses the claimed invention as described in paragraph 2.

Sherman and Lazoff is silent about:

For claims 8,16, 24, additional parameters: Transmission Rate (R_i), Size of Maximum MSDU , and Overheads in Time units.

Kowalski from the same or similar field of endeavor disclose scheduler with the following features:

For claims 8,16, 24, additional parameters: Transmission Rate (R_i) (see section 0070 lines 1-8 “mean data rate”), , and Overheads in Time units (see section 0070 lines 1-8 “Overhead time”).

Sugar et al from the same or similar field of endeavor discloses wireless network with the following features:

For claims 8,16, 24, Sugar discloses Size of Maximum MSDU (see section 0004 lines 1-5 “maximum MSDU size”)

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Sherman and Lin by using the features, as taught by

Kowalski and Sugar, in order to provide a scheduler for providing quality of service (see Kowalski sections 0014-0016) and in order to improve throughput of wireless network by adjusting network access parameters (see Sugar sections 0024-0025)

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman (US 2003/0161340) in view of Lin et al. (US 2008/0049761) and Esteves et al (US 2007/0263655)

A system (see Figure 1, 100) for seamlessly granting (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) polls for upstream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs”) while simultaneously (see section 0031 lines 1-20 “polls may be piggybacked on data frames”) sending downstream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs”) traffic (see section 0031 lines 1-20 “polls may be piggybacked on data frames”) from said (AP)(103) (see section 0040 “HC” and Figure 1, 105, 117) to said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) (see section 0040 lines 1-10 “STAs”), the system (see Figure 1, 100) comprising:

(1) receive a request (see section 0040 lines 1-10 “STAs may request transmission opportunities from the HC” and Figure 2C ;217-229) to send at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs”) for transmission (see section

0040 lines 1-10 “STAs may request transmission opportunities from the HC”) from at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114) (see section 0040 lines 1-10 “STAs”) by said QAP(103) (see section 0040 “HC” and Figure 1, 105, 117);

(2) grant (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals”) said request (see section 0040 lines 1-10 “STAs may request transmission opportunities from the HC” and Figure 2C ;217-229) to send said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic....STA may transmit” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs”) by said WSTA (110, 112, 114) (see Figure 1, 101,102,103)or QAP(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117); transmit (see section 0048 “STA transmits”), by said at least one WSTA(110, 112, 114), a MAC (see section 0082 lines 1-5 “MAC frame”) frame (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “frame....RR”) comprised of a set of parameters (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values”) defining the characteristics (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values in the quality of service....traffic category....transmission duration....transmission category...size”) of said at least one data stream (see section 0031 lines 1-5 “traffic delivered to STAs in its network and STAs deliver traffic” and section 0029 15-20 “delivering traffic to the STAs” and section 0030 lines 1-10 “transmission of a frame “and section 0029 lines 1-10 “two frames...multicast frames” and section 0031 lines 15-25 “data frames”; and,

(4) calculate (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and

section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”), by said QAP(103) (see Figure 1, 105, 117 and section 0038 lines 5-20 “contention period is a time period...frame exchange to occur....HCF....hybrid coordinator”), service and transmission times (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-20 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission...Access algorithm”)

according to a schedule algorithm (see section 0038 lines 5-15 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission”) for servicing (see section 0038 lines 5-20 “right to transmit is assigned to STAs...frame exchange to occur..” and section 0035 lines 1-14 “HC...allocation of transmission opportunities (TXOP) to STAs....control contention intervals” and section 0029 lines 17-28 “contention free period” and section 0005 lines 5-15 “contention free period....use the wireless medium when granted permission” and section 0036 “STAs 101,102, and 103...connected via ...access point”)

said at least one WSTA(110, 112,
15 114) (see Figure 1, 101,102,103).

Sherman is silent about:

As regarding claim 18, a memory for storing a computer-readable code; and,
a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:, calculate,
by said QAP, service and transmission times according to a schedule algorithm for
servicing said at least one WSTA utilizing said parameters.

Esteves et al. from the same or similar field of endeavor discloses a access point with the
following features:

As regarding claim 18, a memory (see section 0061 lines 1-25 “access point...memory”)
for storing a computer-readable code (see section 0061 lines 1-25 “access
point...memory”) ; and,
a processor (see claim 18 “processor” and section 0061 lines 1-25 “access
point...processor”) operatively coupled to said memory (see section 0061 lines 1-25
“access point...memory”), said processor (see claim 18 “processor” and section 0061
lines 1-25 “access point...processor”) configured to:

Lin from the same field of endeavor discloses a system with the following features:

For claim 18, calculate, by said QAP (see section 0101 “non-PC/AP station...PC/AP
station”), service and transmission times according to a schedule algorithm for servicing
said at least one WSTA (see section 0101 “non-PC/AP station...PC/AP station”) utilizing
said parameters (see section 0101 “successfully sent a RR frame....will be identified in
the next CC frame...positive indication...TO given...for which an RR was sent” and

section 0062 “scheduling...transmission opportunity (TO)...” and section 0067 “response to TO...” and section 0083 “centralized scheduling...schedule transmission opportunities...TO is defined by a nominal start time and a maximum duration time...” and section 0112 “RR frame...”).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Sherman by using the features, as taught by Lin, in order to provide “technique for transforming a WLAN into part of an end-to-end QoS network having enhanced channel access, thereby providing QoS support with improved bandwidth utilization” (see Lin sections 0020-30). Furthermore, the element were known in the prior art, and a person of ordinary skill in the art could have combined the above features (both inventions deal with WLAN and RR frame use) and the results would have been predictable.

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Sherman by using the features, as taught by Esteves et al, in order to provide an apparatus for modifying an open-loop rate adaptation algorithm (see sections 0017-0020).

6. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman (US 2003/0161340), Lin et al. (US 2008/0049761), and Esteves et al (US 2007/0263655) as applied to claim 18 above, further in view of Ho (US 2003/0081547).

For claim 19, Sherman, Lin and Esteves disclose all the claimed invention as in paragraph 5.

For claims 19, Sherman discloses parameters (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “values”) of said MAC (see section 0082 lines 1-5 “MAC frame”) frame (see section 0048 lines 1-10 “frame....RR”) .

Sherman is silent about:

For claim 19, Mean Data Rate 6o0, Nominal MSDU Size (Li), and Maximum Service Interval or Delay Bound (Di).

Ho from the same or similar field of endeavor discloses a communication system with the following features:

For claim 19, Mean Data Rate 6o0 (see section 0089 lines 1-24 “mean data rate”), Nominal MSDU Size (Li) (see section 0089 lines 1-24 “nominal MSDU size”), and Delay Bound (Di) (see section 0089 lines 1-24 “delay bound”).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Sherman and Esteves by using the features, as taught by Ho, in order to provide a method for initiating a QoS action on a traffic stream (see sections 0009-0011).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 7, 9,10, 15, 17, 23, 25, 26 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, the objection set forth in this office action need to be addressed.

For claim 9, 17, 25, the closest prior art (US 2003/0063562) discloses an expression for TXOP, however it fails to teach the formulas for calculating transmit opportunity.

For claim 10, and 26, the closest prior art (US 2003/0063562) discloses an expression for TXOP, however it fails to teach the formulas for calculating transmit opportunity.

For claim 7, 15, 23, the closest prior art discloses (Sherman (US 2003/0161340) and of Lin et al. (US 2008/0049761)) determining transmission opportunities, however they do not disclose determining the TXOP duration for a service interval, where the determining the service interval based on a number lower than a minimal interval of all maximum service intervals of each stream and is a submultiple of a beacon interval.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2616

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US-2002/0089994 A1	07-2002	Leach et al.	370/412
US-2002/0093929 A1	07-2002	Mangold et al.	370/336
US-2004/0081133 A1	04-2004	Smavatkul et al.	370/346
US-2004/0114534 A1	06-2004	Benveniste, Mathilde	370/252
US-2004/0136396 A1	07-2004	Yonge et al.	370/445
US-2004/0190467 A1	09-2004	Liu et al.	370/311
US-2005/0174973 A1	08-2005	Kandala et al.	370/338

The above are referenced to show methods/systems of polling or scheduling of transmission.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenan Cehic whose telephone number is (571) 270-3120. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kwang Yao can be reached on (571) 272-3182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KC

/Kwang B. Yao/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2616